

# Bellevue College

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## Social Science Division

### Political Science Program

#### **INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Spring 2011 (April 4-June 17)

**Credits: 5**

(POLS& 101, Item 5352 – OAS)

Trevor McMorris Tate, Ph.D.

[ttate@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:ttate@bellevuecollege.edu)

425. 564-2169

I will be on line, periodically, each weekday. You may send e-mails overnight or on weekends; however, you may not receive a response until the next business day. *Use the Blackboard-Vista tool for all communication and to submit assignments, as applicable.*

#### **Course Description**

This course provides a basic, yet broad, introduction to political science. Given the complex and interdependent character of twenty-first century politics, it is fitting that an introductory course of this sort take a comparative approach, drawing upon evidence and examples from across our world to illustrate meaning and make generalizations. We begin with an overview of how political scientists study *the political* and explore some of the core concepts that form the language of analysis within the discipline. We then apply this knowledge to politics at the individual and group levels. Next, we look at how political institutions are organized and the dynamics of key political processes, such as public policy making and the exercise of power, political development, and political violence. Political Science is basically an inquiry into what is, what should be (the normative aspect), and what can actually be known about the political world. This course seeks to pose some of the critical questions and to provide the tools to enable you to give informed responses.

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

*At the conclusion of this course, successful students should be able to:*

- Understand *the political* and the sources of political knowledge
- Understand and apply the basic language and concepts of politics, including power, authority, legitimacy, beliefs, interests, and political culture
- Make informed, accurate judgments about the value disagreements that occur within politics
- Understand the modes of operation of governmental institutions, structures, and processes as they operate within in different social and cultural contexts

- Undertake basic political analysis using the concepts, methods, and approaches of the discipline of political science
- Demonstrate improved research, writing, critical-thinking, and global competencies

**REQUIRED:** Danziger, James N. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*, Tenth Ed. (with Passkey), ISBN: 9780205720934.

Make sure your text comes with a passkey, which gives access to a helpful multimedia and interactive Toolkit to enable you to understand and connect political concepts and keep up with current events. If you purchased a used text, you will need to purchase a passkey (cost is \$29.00) from the Bookstore or directly from the publisher: [MyPolSciKit](#). **Use the Course site to access all quizzes, simulations, comparative exercises, and other learning resources. Be sure to select the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Danziger text.**

#### *Supplemental Reading & Listening*

Students are encouraged to read one of the following world-class newspapers as often as possible to round out their understanding and to connect the concepts and theories in the course to real-world situations: The Monitor, The Guardian Weekly, The New York Times, the Washington Post, The Economist, Far Eastern Economic Review, Financial Times (London), Wall Street Journal. Also highly recommended are: PRI's "[The World](#)," [The BBC](#), and [Al Jazeera English](#).

#### **How to Succeed in This Course**

Read the required chapter notes and PowerPoint presentations in a timely manner, contribute to the weekly discussions, submit all assignments on time, and stay in touch with current affairs through at least one of the recommended sources below. *You won't be penalized for your views but are expected to bring reliable evidence and considered ideas to the table and to be respectful of your classmates.*

#### **WHAT TO READ**

The course readings, activities, and assignments are drawn from this packaged text, available from the [BC Bookstore](#).

#### **GRADING CRITERIA AND STANDARDS**

The following weighted distribution will assess how well you have achieved the course objectives:

Weekly Discussions	30%
Weekly M-C Tests	20%
MyPolSciKit Simulation/Comparative Exercises	25%
Final Research Essay	25% <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A good place to begin your research is: [ResearchNavigator.com](#)

NOTE: EXAMINATION PERIOD IS JUNE 15-17. THIS COURSE HAS NO FINAL EXAM BUT THE RESEARCH ESSAY WILL BE DUE AT THIS TIME. CONSULT CALENDAR FOR DUE DATE.

Grading: The following confirm the grade points for this course:

90-100 A	(4.0)	72-75 C <sup>+</sup>	(2.3)
87-89 A <sup>-</sup>	(3.7)	68-71 C	(2.0)
84-86 B <sup>+</sup>	(3.3)	64-67 C <sup>-</sup>	(1.7)
80-83 B	(3.0)	60-63 D <sup>+</sup>	(1.3)
76-79 B <sup>-</sup>	(2.7)	50-59 D	(1.0)
		< 50 F	(0.0)

### COURSE POLICIES (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!)

*Note:* This course will typically comprise various internet activities and quizzes, a discussion forum, and a final research essay, all of which are designed to meet the course objectives and enrich the learning experience. You will be assessed on all of these components.

### **Academic Expectations**

All provisions of the BCC regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism will apply--see also [Procedures and Policies of the Social Science Division](#). *These basic rules will apply to all written work:* If you get an idea from someone else, you must acknowledge it by citing the source, whether or not it is a direct quotation. The Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA) style is recommended for footnotes, endnotes, and Works Cited.

### SPECIAL NEEDS

If you require accommodation based on a documented disability or have vital emergency medical information to share, please inform the instructor right away. To register as a special-needs student, contact the Disability Resource Center ([www.bellevuecollege.edu/dss](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/dss)) in B-132, Tel.: 425.564-2498/TTY Line: 425. 564-4110).

### CAMPUS SUPPORT SERVICES

If feasible, sign up for a Library Media Center (LMC) tour to discover how to find collections, books, journals, abstracts, A-V materials, and to use its other rich resources. The LMC ([www.bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/)) is also a handy gateway to other Washington libraries and resources. You may also be interested in BC's Academic Success Center (<http://bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess/>).

*Further information about the academic calendar, enrollment, examination schedules, etc. may be found in the Credit Class Schedule for Fall 2010, available at the BC website ([www.bellevuecollege.edu](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu)).*

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY(S): May 30 (Classes End: Tues., June 14.)

**DEADLINE TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT A "W" POSTED TO TRANSCRIPT IS APRIL 15 BY MIDNIGHT (ONLINE) OR BY 5:00 P.M. IN PERSON**

# COURSE AGENDA & READING GUIDE

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## PART I: ON KNOWING THE POLITICAL WORLD

### Week 1 (4/4-8): **Politics and Knowledge**

Danziger, Ch. 1, plus, Appendix (pp. 468-81)

## PART II: POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

### Week 2 (4/11-15): **Political Theory/Political Beliefs**

Danziger, Ch. 2

### Week 3 (4/18-22): **Political Actions**

Danziger, Ch. 3

### Week 4 (4/25-29): **Influences on Beliefs and Actions**

Danziger, Ch. 4

## PART III: POLITICAL SYSTEMS

### Week 5 (5/2-6): **States and Nations**

Danziger Ch. 5

### Week 6 (5/9-13): **Political Institutions I: Structures**

Danziger, Ch. 6

### Week 7 (5/16-20): **Political Institutions II: Institutional Arrangements**

Danziger, Ch. 7

## PART IV: POLITICAL PROCESSES

### Week 8 (5/23-27): **Public Policy, Power, and Decision**

Danziger, Ch 9

**MAY 30 IS A HOLIDAY**

Week 9 (5/31; 6/1-3): **Change and Political Development**

Danziger, Ch 10

Week 10 (6/6-10): **Politics Across Borders**

Danziger, Ch 11

Week 11-*abbreviated*: (06/13-14)

Summing Up/Conclusion